"And lo, the star which they saw the east went before them," whispered the boy, gazing upward at its pure white light in the hush of the Holy Night.

"But mankind," said the old man, sadly, "has not followed. In all the Christmas eves since it looked on the Wondrous Story of the Centuries shepherds in that field of Bethlehem. It has looked on men doing evil somewhere to their fellows. Its light has been dimmed by the lights from camp tires of armies and from flames of burning cities. I am old, and it is weary waiting for the fulfillment of the promise.

"The star is beautiful and splendid," said the boy with shining eyes. "Undimmed I shine," said the Star.

"And He in whose sight a thousand years are but a day sees mankind look toward me every year with new intelligence and love. Ages have passed and other ages still must be before the Word shall be fulfilled. But every Christmas eve I shine upon a world that has moved forward step by step." Greater grew the radiance of the Star, until the world sank away, and still and pure it shone over Jerusalem.

Whose calm and faithful eyes are these that look toward it from a cell? Stephen lies there, soon to be taken to the city wall and stoned to death. Again it shines upon the Holy City. sucrounded now by a Roman army under Titus. Before another Christ- slaves. mas eve, Jerusalem shall be no more. The temple of the Most High shall be razed and Titus leave nothing on

Mount Moriah save a little heap of And again there is a Christmas eve. Six bundred years have passed. The Christian world has fallen far away from the Sermon on the Mount. Hatred and intolerance have disfor shedding of blood from Bethlehem

to the far isles of Great Britain.

Christmas eve, 800 A. D. and Rome is celebrating the Holy Night with wonderful splendor. Princes and war-Christmas day Charlemagne is to be power of Spain. erowned Augustus. Emperor of the

Moly Roman Empire has begun. mas in the New World, in 1492, the Two years later, Christmas eve sees Star sees Columbus and his crew turn them suffering grievously for food able fires in rags-penniless, hungry, toward it from their small craft as again. they roll in the great blue serges of Anno Domini 1620, and the Pilgrim the tropical ocean off the coast of Fathers rest from their labor of build- ington has surrendered his commismuch Christmas eve cheer aboard the begun that morning. Canta Maria. For before the S'ar has | Christmas eve, 1675 and 1676, sees | the Star without heavy care.



That It Told to the Boy in Giana, after a stubborn siege. Who Gazed at It.

set, she is a hopeless wreck on the rocks of the beautiful island. The Star is to see many cruel things in the New World after that. Its serene beam shines on Montezuma in 1519, a prisoner in the bloody hands of Cortez. It shines on Cortez again with his men in the next Christmas

eve, lying before Tezcuco, which he is to enter and plunder before the end On the Christmas eve of 1529 and for ten Christmas eves thereafter the Star looks on an American Odyssey. It is the Odyssey of Alvar Nunez and his three companions, sole survivors of the expedition of Pamfilo de Narvaez, wandering along the northern coast of Mexico, through Texas, to the Rocky Mountains, and thence to

demigods by a tribe of Indians. They spend many others in working as Twelve years later the Star shines

nando de Soto, Captain General of Cuba, Adelantado of Florida, on earth. Young and old, mechanics and royster-Antwerp. It is a terrible gathering marching together. Singing "God riors and priests throng its streets. that conceives a thought of inhuman | Save the King," they head straight for Greatest prince of them all, before wickedness and ferocity. Yet out of the wharves, where two teaships are whom even the mighty Charlemagne this Christmas meeting shall a great lying. Some of the chests go overby is the Bishop of Rome, Leo III. freedom be born. For it is that of the board, still to the accompaniment of This is a Christmas eve destined to Spanish rulers in the Netherlands, the loyal tune. The others are left do more than any other Christmas eve and at it is adopted the decree of the on the ships, but the vessels are forced in many centuries that have been or Inquisition that condemns all the in- to return home without unloading. that are to come, to change the his habitants of the Netherlands, with but tory of the world. For to-night Char- few exceptions, to death. And the uniform and clothed in his three-daylemagne and his magnificent court War of Liberation follows. It is the old dignity as member of the Corps have agreed with the bishop that on first to break the cruel and deadening of Naval Officers appointed by Con-

West and Protector of Rome. The on the colonists of Jamestown stealing out on Christmas eve. in 1607, to get | crossing the ice-covered Delaware. Snining for the first time on Christ- corn from the Indians by strategy.

war in the New World. In the first gathering around sociable fireplaces, him a branch of this plant to Proser- called), when the boys parade the The custom of New Year's calling are abroad, driving before them the remnants of the Wampanoag Indians, whom they have defeated in a great battle near Narragansett bay; and in 1676 the French are taking Cayehne

In 1686 the Star shines on grim and moody faces in the town of New York. Sir Edmond Andross, the first royal governor and vice-regent of New England, has just arrived and is making a roaring Christmas eve of it.

Two years afterward the Star gleams on his royal master, James II., spending his Christmas eve in the French court, a fugitive driven from his throne in England. Sitting with a few companions by

a camp fire in the primeval wilderness of Pennsylvania, a young surveyor looks up at it in 1753. He is George Washington, nine days' journey on his way home from Lake Erie, where he has been to carry a message to the commander of the French that will end finally in the French and Indian war. Indians are prowling on his path that night, but he looks as serenely Mexico, trying to find a way to take at the Star of Bethlehem as if he them back to Spain. They spend one were gazing at it from his home in Christmas eve in being worshiped as Virginia.

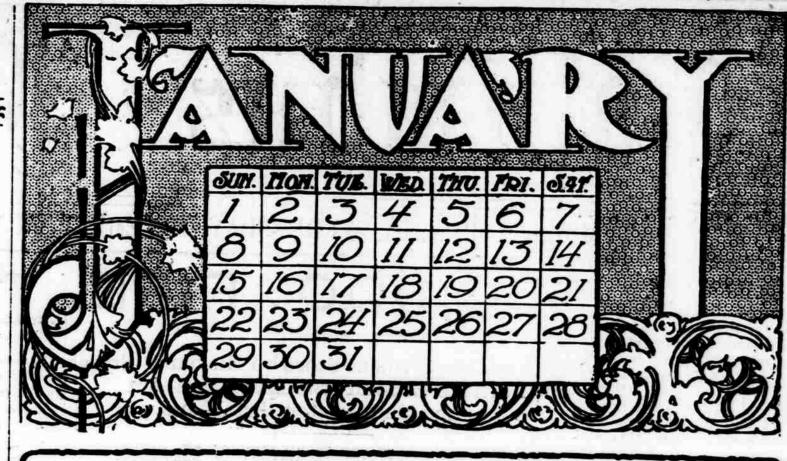
Fourteen years later, two other young surveyors pass a similar Christmas eve in the wilderness. They are not to become so famous personally on Hernando de Soto, lying in camp as that other surveyor, but their in the Chickasaw country. It is the names are destined to be linked forsecond Christmas eve away from his ever with a great cause. They are wife, the beautifu! Dona Isabella, and Mason and Dixon, sitting under the he is never to see her again. The Star at the end of their trail. They Star looks down upon him in 1541, have reached a warpath and the innear the Mississippi, with his great dians have forced them to stop thirtyexpedition scattered and all but de. six miles from their objective point. stroyed, but the dauntless heart of But they have practically run their torted the cause of Christ into a cause him brave and unfearing. Chrismas line and they finish it on Dec. 26.

eve. 1542, finds no such person as Her- | Christmas eve, 1773, and there are bands and flying banners in Boston. In 1567 the Star sees a gathering in ers and citizens of substance, are

Lieut. John Paul Jones, in his new gress, swaggers around proudly on In the New World the Star looks | Christmas eve in Philadelphia in 1775. Anno Domini 1776 sees 24,000 men

And in 1777 the Star shines on Valley Forge, where men sit around pitifreezing, but unfaltering.

Christmas eve, 1783, George Washng the settlement which they have sion the day before. For the first time in seven years, he looks up to



NEW YEAR CUSTOMS

Old - Time Rites and the Origin of Some That Are Still Practiced.

New Year's Day has been a day of | Among the Saxons the New Year | New Year's day was a great day in February, and dedicated the former to jewelry was supplied in this way. Janus, 713 B. C.

'Tis he! The two-faced Janus comes in Wild hyacinths his robe adorn. And sundrops, rivals of the morn He spurns the goal aside.

with pride.
And now unlocks, with agate key.
The ruby gates of orient day."

On this day the Roman consuls, fol lowed by the court, went to the cap ital, all gorgeously appareled, where at this season. It was carried from yoked, to Jupiter Capitolinus.

is a different thing altogether. We coming year.

ceremony and rejoicing for a great was ushered in by friendly gifts. New York with the early Dutch set-

king's disgust.

teenth century, prince and peasant the year." alike celebrated the New Year with regularity and parade.

Much was made of the wassail bowl they sacrificed two white bulls, never door to door with loud singing and The Druids observed New Year with was haile, the Saxon for "Here's to Year." great pomp and ceremony. One fea- you!" an expression still in use by ture of their ceremonies was the dis- men in pledging each other at suppriests went in annual procession, on In some of the country districts of aring a golden sickle with which to the last of the Christmas carols is detach the sacred parasite from the sung, outside of the house, by the tree. So much did they esteem it that young people, then there is a rush for it was carried in a white cloth. It the nearest spring, and the first one

of Eneas, who, when descending to funeral is held, at some public houses, year the New Englanders, instead of Avernus, was compelled to take with over "old Tom" (as the old year is the "double trouble."

tribution of the mistletoe among the pers. The present loving cup takes who fiddled all night while the young in the full dress of the old-time regu people danced. Under Peter was in- lars, and he held every man in line the sixth day of the moon nearest the England old customs are still observine bees," and other rural assemblages. where, under the inspiring influence form, as Burke wore it, was queer

The governor did not approve of comedy in himself. must be cut from the divine oak, in who fills his or her glass gets what the short skirts worn by the ladies "He would caper about the colonel's the forest dedicated to the gods. The they call the "cream of the well," and ordered a ruffle put at the bottom legs, indulging in pranks that would apple tree mistletoe, used in England, will be the most fortunate during the of them. He likewise disapproved of make a horse laugh, and yet the colosome of their steps in dancing, and nel stood there in stately pose, blind all remember the mythological story In the early hours of the morning, a ordered that no other step should be to the puppy's pranks, but watchful taken but the "shuffle and turn," and as to the expression on the faces of

many centuries in the world's history. Later, this custom of making gifts tlers. It was ushered in by the ring-Its origin is traced back to the Roman was carried to a ruinous excess. ing of bells and firing of guns. Wast- investigating committee would get 'estival of Janus, after the establish- Henry III. of England extorted costly ington Irving, in his humorous "Knick- hold of him. ment of the empire. The old Romans gifts from his court. Queen Bess care erbocker's History of New York," livided the year into ten months only. ried it to such an extreme, says Dr. gives a delightfully amusing account Numa Pompilius added January and Drake, that her costly wardrobe and of the observance of New Year among | colonel's kindness of heart. He found, these Netherlanders. "The wnole com- on occasion, a dog hurt in collision When Henry VIII. was receiving munity," he tells us, "was deluged with an army wagon or a gun carcostly preserts from his courtiers, we with cherry brandy, pure Holland riage. The dog's leg was broken, read that honest old Latimer handed and mulled cider; every house was and he was in pitiable condition, and him a Bible, with some pertinent a temple of the merry god, and many the colonel's orderly reported that he chapters marked, much to the burly a provident vagabond was intoxicated was no better than a dead dog. The

> Irving dwells especially upon the great ball given at the Governor's, old Peter Stuyvesant, New Year's night "when the good Peter was devoutly observant of the pious rite of kissing merriment. The word is derived from all the womenkind for a Happy New

The Joyous New Year



Who comes dancing over the snow His soft little feet all bare and rosy? Open the door, though the wild winds

Take him in and hold him dear. He is the wonderful New Year.



Virgil compares the golden streets, asking for presents, and sing | was very prevalent in most of the bough in these regions to this mistle- ing:

An old Druidical tradition was that the maiden not kissed under the mistletoe would go husbandless all the year. "It is under this pagan mistietoe," says George William Curtis. "that the Christian youth of to-day kisses the Christian maiden."

The Romans had two New Years. the sacred one, which was the 1st of March, and the civil one of which we have just spoken, the 1st of January. The Jews had a sacred and a civil | ary. year; the former began in March or

April, the latter in September or October, warying with the lunar period. The early Greeks had no settled year; when one was finally adopted, they commenced it at the vernal equinox. The early Christians also considered the vernal equinox the proper Chinese and most Indian nations comwith the rising of the Doe Star.

"I wish you a happy New Year, A pocket full of money And a cellar full of beer, And a great fat pig To serve you all the year. Ladies and gentlemen, Sitting by the fire,

New Year. In 1654 Charles IX. of is a most brilliant spectacle, as all the officials, whose duty it was to see France decreed that in accordance the Diplomatic Corps and the army that the flag was kept flying. with the Roman calendar, the year and navy are in full uniform. Both "This reason may have seemed for the longest time of any officer in

festival, but the New Year is a domesmences at an early hour, with an ex-

large cities of the United States for a The French make a great deal of the White House, all the morning. It somewhat treasonable reason given by should begin on the first day of Jany- houses of Congress also pay their re good to the jellyfish patriots in Wash- the civil war. He was in company D

Charles Lamb, one of the tenderest charge of bonbons and visits among and touching is the peal which rings friends and relatives. I somewhere out the old year. They take a per saw an estimate that one hundred sonal color. Not childhood alone, but the fall of Fort Sumter. These First tenant of the company. thousand dollars was spent upon bon- the young man, till thirty, never feels Defenders' antedated all other troops time to commence the New Year. The bons alone every New Year's in Paris. practically that he is mortal. He tells in getting into Washington, and they The French revolution brought New us that "every man hath two birth camped in the basement of the capitol mence the New Year with the first Year's day to this great prominence. days, two days in every year which new moon in March, the Persians in With the first empire it was one of set him upon revolving the lapse of June and the Egyptians early in the the most brilliant festivals of the time as it affects his mortal duration; autumn, or the first day coinciding court, as it was also of the second em- his own birthday and the birthday of the New Year."

ever mind the old times; They were bright an sweet! Sunny skies above you—
Violets at your feet;
But the new times wear a smilin'
That's mighty good to meet.
An' you'd better find the light
makes the mornin':

ever mind the old times They were great, I know: But the new times sing the song of Hope Where sweeter roses grow,
An' you'd better find the light tha

Frank L. Stanton, in Atlanta Constitu Eccentric Colonel Burke. "Yes," said Gen. Coates. "I knew Col. Martin Burke, who was in command at Fort Lafayette when prisoners therein quartered made the fort Press. and the commander subjects of controversy. Apart from any controversy, Col. Burke was an interesting personality and an old character. I remember him as one of the old school army

officers given to some eccentricities that made me smile then and often cause me to smile now. He occupied a trying position, but he made minding his own business a matter of professional pride, and he never would go near Washington for fear that some "The boys on duty at Fort Lafay-

ette had a constant reminder of the out of pure economy, drinking liquor | colonel, however, ordered the poor lit-Dr. Drake tells us that, in the six- enough to serve him the remainder of the beast taken to his own quarters, and in due time the dog recovered. with a supreme disregard of all military regulations and proprieties. "This latter quality undoubtedly

grieved the colonel, but he stood by the mischievous puppy through thick and thin, and wherever the colone went with his traditional dignity went Sam, the puppy, with his abnormally On this day the governor also dis- developed bump of mischief. The coloof the fiddles, toil was enlivened by enough to make any man smile, but is lettered "Organized May 6, 1868. Sam, at these parades, was a full Michigan."

> the officers and men in line. These poor fellows nearly died of suppressed laughter, and they were always wondering what Sam would do next. But whatever they expected him to do, he always did something else, and no matter what he did, the colonel stood

"The men on duty at Fort Lafayette in the latter part of the civil war may have forgotten the most notorious prisoners held there, but I will venture to say that not one of them has forgotten the eccentric colonel or his patient orderly, or the dog Sam. Those nearest the colonel testified that the orderly never showed impatience er irritation except on one occasion. The colonel had worked late one night on some perplexing papers, and, halting for a moment in his work, pushed his spectacles up well on his head, instead of taking them off.

"This was his regular habit, but on this occasion he pushed the glasses back farther than usual, and when, on resuming his work, he put his hand up he found no spectacles. This was disconcerting and irritating, and he shouted, 'Orderly, orderly, come here sir!' The orderly had been sound asleep for two hours, but he jumped up, wriggled into his clothes, and presented himself to his absent-minded colonel. . Burke looked him over in at Clifton Springs. The question arose disapproval of his unusual appearance as to whether the county wherein she and snapped out, 'My glasses,'

before the colonel two glasses, a pitchlooked at him in amazement and reared, 'My glasses, you fool. My spec eacles, my spectacles!' Then the worm turned. 'Yure glasses, colonel,' said the orderly, 'are on the top of Hotel Lafayette, or Bastile Lafavette. or Fort Lafavette always brings to my

The Flag at Washington. Our recent articles about the display of the United States flag in for

mer years bring out many reminiscences. Another old veteran writes: "It is a somewhat curious fact that previous to the War of the Rebellion the flag was not often seen in the national capitol or anywhere else. 1 know a veteran born in Kentucky. many organizations have neglected so who says he entered the service in far to record their doings, but recent-1861, at the age of 17 years, and until | ly there has been shown a general he enlisted and was mustered into the desire to repair the omission, and service he had never laid eyes on the many regimental histories are appearflag and did not know what it looked like! A flag has been displayed over the capitol at Washington for a good many years, probably fifty, though there is no authentic record of its having flown 'officially for that length of plans to erect on the Crater battlefield time. It is only since the war that in Prince George county, near Peterslong while, many gentlemen making each end of the capitol has had its burg, a handsome granite monument as many as forty and fifty calls on own flag. During the early days of to cost \$7,000. The monument is to that day. This custom has been gen- the disturbances which brought on the be erected in memory of those of the erally discontinued except in Wash war of the rebellion, the one little old regiment who fell in the Crater fight. ington city. Here the president and flag on the west front of the capitol It was this regiment that dug the tunwife, assisted by the wives of the was discontinued. 'It roused sectional nel for the mine. cabinet members, hold a reception at feeling to see it flying there' was the

lous height of the thea manshed sion bureau.

come, carrying with him the large regimental flag of his organization. This flag he nailed to the dome, and there it remained until the elements whipped away the last thread of it, long before the close of the war. A storm was raised when people got up in the morning and saw the old flag flying from the dome, and many were the inquiries as to how it got there, but it was many a long year before the truth came out. The soldier who did it knew that he would be severely disciplined if he told what he had done, and his comrades who had helped him were loyal to him. The flag was there, and no man could be found who would take it down."-New York

The Badge Money Cannot Buy. A heavy disk of bronze, bearing the state seal surrounded by the inscription, "Department of Michigan, G. A.



R.," designates the comrades of the Michigan department. Upon the reverse appears the little bronze button surrounded by the words, "38th National Encampment G. A. R., Boston." This disk is pendent from an oxidized silver pin by a cherry ribbon on which is the place and date of the national

Their Sons in Civil War. An inquiry whether any man was living in North Carolina who had sons in the confederate army is eliciting replies of an astonishing charac-

A letter from Hillsboro states that James D. Daniel of Orange county, now 97, had five sons in the confederate army. Three of these are liv-

In the same township W. G. Wright is still living, 88 years of age. His son, J. B. Wright, was in the confed-

At the soldiers' home one of the inmates named Bunn served in the same company with two sons. There is also at the soldiers' home a veteran who served in the Indian war of 1835, the war with Mexico and the civil war and never received a wound. He is 92 years old and is active and interested in everything.-New York Herald.

Point of Law Cleared Up. A decision upon a point involved in

the law granting the wife or widow of an honorably discharged union soldier or sailor may, if circumstances require, after her death be provided with a funeral at the expense of the county has recently been rendered by the attorney general. In the case con sidered the widow of a soldier at Clif ton Springs went to Mount Morris to visit and died while there. The under taker who had charge of the burial presented his bill to the G. A. R. post had her legal residence or the county "The orderly turned on his heel wherein she died should pay the burial without a word and in a minute placed expenses. The attorney general decided that Livingston county, where er of water and a decanter. Burke she died, was responsible for the bill -New York Press.

Battery in Reunion.

The argual reunion of the survivors of the Fifth New York Independent your head, sor. An' ye call me from | Eattery, Light Artiliery, was held in me bed to tell ye that' The colone! New York last week. The battery was in high dudgeon put his hand to his organized by Capt. E. D. Taft in head, but found the glasses, and then Brooklyn on August 15, 1861, mustersaid, 'Having found the glasses, go to ed into the United States army Nov. 8. bed at once. I never would have 1861, and served in the Army of the found them myself.' Any reference to Potomac until May 19, 1864. It then erved with Gen. Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley and was mustered out mind the figure of quaint but soldierly of the service July 6, 1865. The old Col. Martin Burke."-Chicago Inter comrades greeted each other on the forty-third anniversary of the muster in. Letters were read from absent comrades.

Regimental Histories.

Regimental histories enriched by the reminiscences and documents of surviving comrades produced under keen criticism are the best possible foundations for an accurate history of wars. It is to be regretted that so

Monument for Crater Battlefield. The survivors of the Forty-eighth Pennsylvania infantry have made

One Man in Company.

Levi M. Poor of Augusta, Me., was in command of the smallest company spects to the chief of the nation, and ington who were bossing things at the of the Nineteenth Maine, and for for-Christmas with them is a religious then the general public are admitted capitol at that time, but it did not go ty-three days had only one mant-John with the 'First Defenders' of Pennsyl- White of Belfast-all the others hetic festival and holiday. The day com- of English essayists, says: "Of al vania, the gallant little body of 500 ing absent by sickness, death, wounds sounds, of all bells, the most soleme men, who hurried to Washington on or removals. Ex Gov. Connor of the very first train after the presidents Maine, who was then in command of call for men to wipe out the stain of the regiment, made him active lieu-

> Veterans Passing Away. The sad news is sent out from on the night of April 17. They asked | Washington, on the authority of Penwhy the national capitol displayed no sion Commissioner Ware, that the colors, and were told the reason as old soldiers are dying at the rate of above. This angered one of the Pirst | 150 a day. This is a higher rate than Defenders,' and he climbed the peri- ever before in the history of the pen-